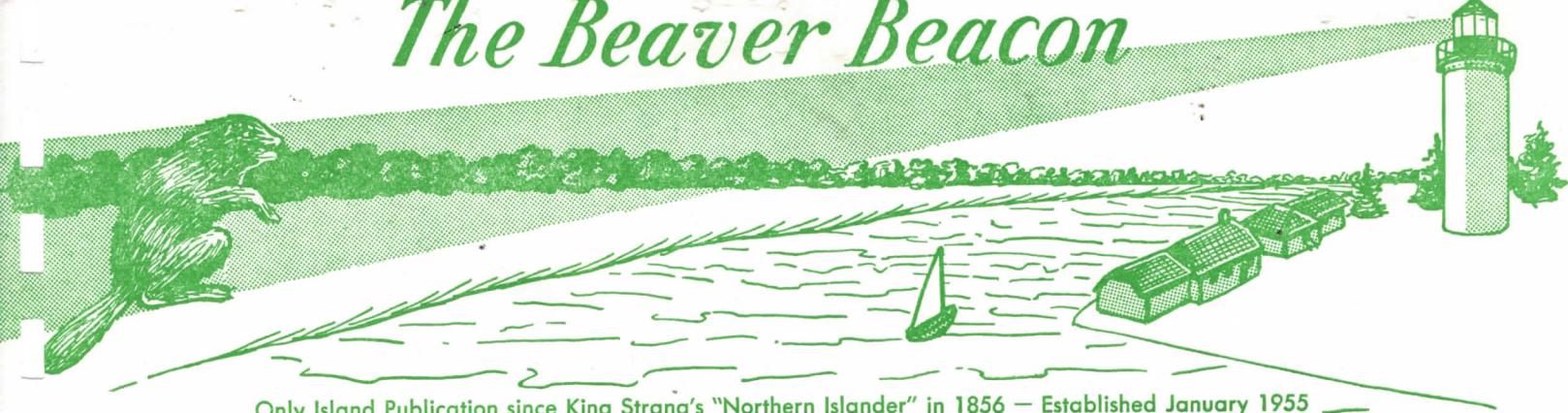


The Beaver Beacon



Only Island Publication since King Strang's "Northern Islander" in 1856 — Established January 1955

May 1962

WEATHER: Following is the weather analysis for April as reported by Vernon Fitzpatrick:

Highest daytime temperature, April 25th, 62 degrees.

Coldest nighttime temperature, April 3rd, 10 degrees.

Average daytime temperature, 48 degrees.

Average nighttime temperature, 30 degrees.

Rain fell on 10 days giving a total rainfall of 2.24".

Although there are still small patches of snow in the woods, the trees are beginning to leaf out. The roads are in very good condition all around the Island. Winter is definitely gone - and no one is sorry.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER: For hours, weary eyes had gazed across the horizon. Hours turned into days and days into weeks. Still no sign of her. Rumors began circulating through the crowd. "She'll never come," some said. More optimistic ones said, "Maybe she'll be here in a few days". Those who thought they were in the know kept repeating, "Tomorrow, tomorrow, and tomorrow". But as each day faded into dusk, and still she hadn't arrived, despair deepened into hopelessness. At first certain brands of beer disappeared. Then the more popular brands of liquor were gone. Shelves all over became more bare. Bars and stores started closing early, and some didn't open at all. Frantic calls to the mainland were useless. Finally, on April 18th, the faint outlines of her bow appeared around Whiskey Point. Cheers went up. The crowd dashed to the dock, the stronger ones aiding the weak, their drawn and haggard faces radiating ecstasy. The EMERALD ISLE had finally arrived! One man, overcome with joy, looked at his watch and said, "Thank Heavens, she's only 18 days and five minutes late!"

TOURIST SEASON BEGINS: Beaver Island is again playing host to the tourists as the summer season begins. The first yacht of the season, owned by Tom Loeb of Charlevoix, arrived in the harbor last week. Mr. Loeb's yacht was the last to visit Beaver last fall. Our Coast Guardsmen arrived on May 4th to open the station in St. James for the navigation season. Beaver Lodge opened its doors to guests under the new management of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rudolph. The Lodge cocktail lounge and golf course are also open to the public. Edna McCann has opened the Beachcomber Tavern for the season. Grace Cole is once again serving those delicious home made breads and pies along with her excellent meals at the Killarney Inn.

We welcome our summer guests on the Island and look forward to their return. This year, why don't each of you bring a friend or two along to enjoy the beauties of Beaver Island?

BEAVER ISLANDER: The Board of Directors of the Beaver Island Boat Co. called upon the Sturgeon Bay Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Corporation to check on the construction of the new ferry, BEAVER ISLANDER. Construction has progressed to the main deck and the two main engines have arrived. Work is continuing according to schedule.

The Board has also announced the sale of the EMERALD ISLE to the Arnold Transit Lines for \$68,000. Sale will be final when the BEAVER ISLANDER is delivered. The EMERALD ISLE will be placed on the Mackinac Island run.

NEW BOOKS ON ISLAND LIVING: It was a long winter and from its enforced idleness came the following books:

"How to Cheat at Cards" by Willie Schmidt
"How to Catch Willie Cheating at Cards" by Mrs. Willie Schmidt
"How to Fly a Car" by Leadfoot Lil Gregg
"How to Enjoy a Winter Vacation" by Mich. Unemployment Securities Comm.
"Waiting for Ships that Never Come In" by Beaver Island Businessmen
"The Ship that Never Sailed" by Beaver Island Boat Company
"Proper Pool Procedure" by little Mark LaFreniere
"How to be Happy, Though Broke" by most of us
"How to Fail Without Really Trying" by the rest of us
"God Help All of Us" by Father Louis
"How Did I Get Talked Into Printing This" by your editor!

BEAVER ISLAND YACHT CLUB: The newly formed Beaver Island Yacht Club has made great strides in its first year of existence. They became affiliation and support from many other club members in the association. To date they have 56 charter members, 3 of which are honorary life members. Mrs. Lavina Whalen was made an Honorary member since she and the late Bill Whalen were ardent supporters of Beaver Island and the sport of boating. Mr. D. J. Angus of Indianapolis was made an honorary member because of his moral and financial support of the Medical Center on Beaver Island. He too, has become a seasoned visitor through means of his private yacht. Mr. Keith Wilson, Director of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was given the honorary position because of his interest in the development of the new dock at St. James Harbor.

Proposed projects for the coming season are as follows: The Board of Directors will work with the St. James Township and Michigan Waterways Commission for improvement of present docking facilities, especially small craft, at St. James Harbor. The above groups will work with the Michigan Conservation Department to establish dock slips at High and Garden Island. Other projects of interest to yachtsmen include benches and grills on the beach in front of the club, a flag pole and lighted sign for the Beaver Island Yacht club. A Citizen Band Radio Service will be installed at the club house, available for use this summer. Effort is being made to work up a LAFOT weather bulletin for yachtsmen visiting the Island, courtesy of the Club.

Anyone wishing to become a member may contact Mrs. Ruth Wanty, 6780 Carpenter Road, Ypsilanti, Mich., for further information, and Mrs. Wanty sends all yachtsmen the invitation to help make boating trips to Beaver safe and fun.

NEW ISLAND RESIDENTS: Mr. and Mrs. Lin Rountree of Chicago are making their permanent residence at "Journey's End", the home formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Hoffman.

Mrs. Mary Turner of Frankfort, Indiana is moving her mobile home to Beaver Island to become a permanent resident here. Mary bought the first ticket on the EMERALD ISLE this year, and took the first taxi from the dock at Charlevoix to the airport when she found the ferry would be delayed.

HOSPITAL NOTES: Musette LaFreniere was flown to Charlevoix hospital at 4:00 A.M. on April 25th by Al Phillips. She was found to be suffering from pneumonia and pleurisy. Her condition, though critical for several days, is improving. She will be released from the hospital next week and will recuperate at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Belfy, Sr., in Charlevoix. Come home soon, Musette.

CHURCH NEWS: On May 28th, Fr. Aidan Whittle, O.F.M. Conv., will celebrate his Silver Sacerdotal Jubilee. Fr. Aidan is pastor of St. Anthony at Grand Rapids. On June 3rd, Fr. Raymond Oosdyke, O.F.M., Conv., will also celebrate his Silver Jubilee at St. Anthony's. Both have been Third Order Spiritual Directors for many years and are still in the missionary field.

On May 3rd, a pantry shower for the Dominican Sisters was held at the Convent. Thirty-five ladies, including the five nuns, participated in an evening of games. The Sisters received many gifts, including a floor lamp from the Altar Society. The evening ended with a buffet luncheon.

The Crowning of the Blessed Mother took place at Holy Cross Church on Sunday, May 6th, with all the school children participating. Coleen Nackerman was given the honor of the Crowning.

FIRE: On April 17th at 10:00 A.M. LaFreniere's Grocery Store was discovered to be on fire, apparently from a grass fire that had been started in the area behind the store. Beaver Island's Volunteer Fire Department managed to get the fire out before too much damage was done, although it necessitated the cutting of two holes in the LaFreniere's newly decorated living room and three holes in the first floor.

Two other grass fires were put out by the Fire Department, one near Barney's Lake and the other at the first clearing near the Adams' summer home.

Please remember that before starting a brush or grass fire, you must obtain a permit from the Department of Conservation or be subject to a fine!

OBITUARIES: Mrs. Margaret (O'Donnell) Grill of Grand Rapids passed away April 6th. Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Philo Farrow, and two sons, Fr. J. Walter Grill and John Grill. Mrs. Grill and her husband, John, Sr., who preceeded her in death last September, were the original owners of the grocery store now operated by Lloyd McDonough.

Requiem High Mass for Mrs. Christina Gallagher was held at Holy Cross Church on April 28th. Mrs. Gallagher died on January 7th. Services were delayed due to transportation difficulties to the Island during the winter months. Surviving are two sisters and two brothers. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery.

The body of Mr. John Donlevy was returned to Beaver Island for burial at Holy Cross Cemetery on April 23rd. The Requiem High Mass was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church at Charlevoix. Mr. Donlevy was a former Island resident.

BIRTHS: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph (Bud) McDonough of St. James, are the parents of a boy, James Allen, born April 26th at Little Traverse Hospital in Petoskey. This makes five boys for Skip and Bud and 24 grandchildren for the paternal grandparents, Lloyd and Eva McDonough.

Eleanore (Pischner) and Ladonis Mooney of Plymouth, Michigan, announced the birth of a boy, Dwayne Allen, on April 17th.

Marguerite and Royce Welsh of Glen Burnning, Maryland are the parents of a boy born April 20th. Mrs. Welsh is the former Marguerite Connaghan of Beaver Island.

SPORTS

It has been the belief of most observers that our deer herd had not suffered the starvation that plagued mainland deer throughout the state this past winter. Vernon Fitzpatrick, our local Conservation Officer, has been able to make a thorough check of our deer yards and says that while this is partially true of the older deer, it is not so with the young fawns.

It is a well known fact that the deer return each year to the same wintering grounds. While we have excellent cedar swamps on the north end of the Island, the deer ignore this good food and return each winter to the same area in and around Fox Lake. With the constant browsing year after year in these same yards, the lower browse is almost all gone, leaving only the higher branches for food. These branches cannot be reached by the young fawns and their existence is thus doomed. While a small amount of good food grows up each year, the older deer soon consume this, leaving no food whatsoever for the little ones.

On April 12, Vernon saw a doe with her fawn about 1/2 mile north of the entrance to the fishing site. The doe jumped the fence and the young fawn attempted to follow her. She was too weak to clear the fence, became impaled and broke her neck. Vernon brought the young animal to town for examination and found she had been in an extremely weak condition. The dead fawn was a yearling and should have weighed between 100 and 110 pounds. It weighed only 60 lbs. Other evidences of starvation were its bony back, scurvy hide with loose tufts of hair, and bloated stomach. This bloating is typical of starvation, and a deer suffering from starvation, seen from a distance, can easily give the appearance of being well fed.

Vernon brought back other evidences of deer starvation. That the deer yards have been badly browsed was proven by a piece of dogwood with

twigs chewed off larger than a pencil. This is almost indigestible and certainly poor deer food. He also showed a piece of cedar taken from the lower branch of a tree that had obviously been completely browsed off in early fall.

Vernon stated that there are two solutions to our deer situation. We can either harvest the herd to about 500 each year, or we can show more concern about the deer yards. Since our deer herd is of tremendous economic value to the Island, it would seem logical to create food for the present and an even larger herd. A tree cutting machine could be brought to the Island to fell the trees in the deer yard. These fallen tree tops would create food for all the deer and from the stumps would come the small tender shoots so vital to the young fawns' growth. In other areas a controlled burning program could be undertaken. This Deer Range Management Program could begin in late summer. When asked if anything could be done to help the young fawns now in this present stage of starvation, Vernon replied in the negative. Attempts to feed deer in this weakened condition have proven futile when tried in other areas.

Trout season opened at Fox Lake on April 28th on a cold, windy day. Conservation officers from Roscommon, Max Hunt, Troy Yoder and Pete Van Valen, tried their luck in spite of the adverse weather conditions, but only three brook trout were taken, all by Mr. Yoder. Your editor was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time and was given the honor of eating these first three trout ever taken from a lake on Beaver Island, and they were very delicious. So come on, you anglers. Fox Lake and its 1497 remaining trout are waiting for you. The Department will restock the lake in late summer with legal size rainbow trout. Remember, the Conservation Department has requested that no live minnows be used for bait. Also, please fill out the form on the bulletin board at the lake, so the Department will know to what extent the lake is being used.

Mr. Mike Repak of Battle Creek and his party spent a week fishing at Lake Genesareth and reported excellent Northern Pike catches. The largest was 42" long.

The smelt run has been exceptionally good this year. It began on May 2nd and at this writing, netters have reported the Jordan river still has a good many of the silvery fish going upstream to spawn.

Bill Binns of Cassopolis, Michigan has asked us why we didn't talk about the perch anymore. It isn't proper to talk about someone(or something) that isn't present to defend itself! No sign of a good perch run as yet.

CORRECTION: In last month's BEACON we said that Ronald Grant of Lansing had flown over Lake Genesareth and saw the two dead deer. We were in error, as it was Clyde Grant of Beaverton, Michigan. Our apologies to both gentlemen.

A LETTER FROM THE STATES: We receive many interesting letters and comments on Beaver Island and on our BEAVER BEACON. Fortunately, most of them are complimentary and we want to thank each of you who have been kind enough to take the time to drop us a line. We have recently received a letter we enjoyed so much that we wanted to share it with you. It is from Mrs. Pauline Scott of Livonia, Michigan. She and her husband, Burgess (Scotty) work for rival automobile companies but apparently they agree on their opinion of Beaver Island.

Last month's BEACON contained a story with reference to whether or not Beaver Island was a part of the United States. Following are Pauline's remarks.

" As you know, Scotty and I love getting and reading the BEACON and its reports. Until this last one, we've never questioned the statements made therein, nor have we found reason to comment - but I cannot keep from taking pen in hand after reading the most recent issue.

" Beaver Islanders are wondering whether or not they are a part of the United States? Wondering? From our first visit there, it never occurred to us that the Islanders thought they were anything other than unto themselves!

" Well do I remember my first visit (Scotty's second). We suddenly decided to spend the Labor Day week-end on the Island and because it was a sudden decision just before the week-end, we were unable to get our car on the boat. So we went over "on foot". It was literally on foot, because it was a windy and rainy day and unless you wanted to resign yourself to staying warm-but sick- inside the cabin of the old boat, you balanced and clutched and grabbed and fought on foot along the rail!

" When we landed, we walked down to see Jewell (Gillespie) about renting a car. He had one (we knew it, because he grunted, nodded, and handed us some keys). Scotty produced identification which Jewell didn't bother to acknowledge and then Scotty asked about a deposit on the car. 'Don't need any,' was the answer. Upon being told that we were accustomed to placing a deposit when renting a car, Jewell remarked, 'Yeah, I guess they do that back in the States'.

" For 10 years, we've taken our cue from Jewell and have always (and joyfully) felt we were leaving the States and going to Beaver Island!"

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE

6 room house on harbor. Lot 100' by 440'. Completely furnished inc. linens, G.E. refrig. with lge. freezer. Contact Mrs. Walter Lyons, 7523 Winchester Ave., Chicago 20. Phone Radcliffe 3-4536.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The gods do not subtract from the allotted span of men's lives the hours spent in fishing."

-Translated from an ancient Assyrian tablet.

See You In June!